

Section 15

ABTRACTOR (WEAPON TYPE)

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|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Weapon type: | Wtype | 15-3 |
| Other weapon information: | OthWeap | |

Weapon type: **WType**
Other weapon information: **OthWeap**

| Name | Definition |
|---------|---|
| WType | Type of weapon or means used to inflict the injury |
| OthWeap | Text field to indicate the weapon type if WType is coded as “Other” |

Uses

Abstractors should use this field to decide the appropriate weapon type. The field exists because records about the incident may not agree about the weapon type used yet a weapon type must be selected to activate the appropriate weapon fields in the application.

Discussion

Weapon type reports the broad category of weapon(s) used to inflict the injury. “Sharp instrument” refers not only to knives, but also to razors, machetes, or pointed instruments (e.g., chisel, broken glass). “Blunt instrument” refers to clubs, bats, etc. “Personal weapons” include fists, feet, hands. “Fall” covers both being pushed (as in a homicide) or jumping (as in a suicide). When faced with choosing multiple possible force weapon types, e.g., a person who drives their car off a bridge, falls to the river below, and dies by drowning, pick the weapon that exerted the most force to the body or deprived it of essentials such as oxygen. In this example, the only weapon would be drowning because the motor vehicle and the fall did not exert the most force to the body. In contrast, when a person deliberately drives their car into an abutment, the only weapon is motor vehicle.

| Name | Label | Table | Type | Field Length | Priority | Primacy |
|---------|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------------|----------|---------|
| WType | Weapon type: | Weapon | Number | 2 | ER | SYS |
| OthWeap | Other weapon information: | Weapon | Text | 100 | O | SYS |

Response Options:

WType

- 1 Firearm
- 5 Non-powder gun
- 6 Sharp instrument
- 7 Blunt instrument
- 8 Poisoning
- 9 Hanging, strangulation, suffocation
- 10 Personal weapons
- 11 Fall
- 12 Explosive
- 13 Drowning
- 14 Fire or burns
- 15 Shaking, (e.g., shaken baby syndrome)

Weapon/Abstractor

- | | |
|----|--|
| 16 | Motor Vehicle, including buses, motorcycles |
| 17 | Other transport vehicle, (e.g., trains, planes, boats) |
| 18 | Intentional neglect, (e.g., starving a baby) |
| 19 | Biological weapons |
| 66 | Other |
| 99 | Unknown |

OthWeap

Data Standards or Guidelines

NVISS